



Customer No. 27123

Docket No. 1232-5308

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): MAEDA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2636

Serial No.: 10/786,872

Examiner: Hofsass, Jeffrey A.

Filed: February 24, 2004

Confirmation No. 3629

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MANAGING ARTICLES

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. §1.8(a))**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I hereby certify that the attached:

1. Information Disclosure Statement (2 pp.);
2. Form PTO-1449 (1 p.)
3. copy of five (5) references cited therein;
4. Return receipt postcard

along with any paper(s) referred to as being attached or enclosed and this Certificate of Mailing are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Respectfully submitted,  
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: November 10, 2004

By: Pamela Stone  
Pamela Stone

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Serial No.: 10/786,872 Examiner: Hofsass, Jeffrey A.  
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The items listed on Form PTO-1449, a copy of which is enclosed, are made of record to assist the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider the items and to independently ascertain their teaching.

1. ☒ For each of the following items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, an English language translation of that item or a portion thereof or a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is enclosed:

For Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application Publication Nos. JP 2002-163301 A, JP 2001-134729 A, JP 2001-39533 A, JP 2000-113077 A and JP 10-49756 A, listed as Items A - E, respectively, English Abstracts are provided.

2. ☒ For each of the following items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is incorporated in the specification of the above-identified application.

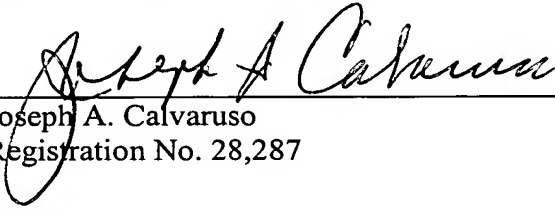
JP 2002-163301 A, JP 2001-134729 A, JP 2001-39533 A, JP 2000-113077 A, JP 10-49756 A.

3. ☐ Any copy of the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement was previously cited by or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_.
4. ☒ No fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with:
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1), within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a CPA; or
  - ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(2), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; or
  - ☒ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits; or
  - ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(4), before the mailing date of a first office action after the filing of an RCE under §1.114.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Information Disclosure Statement, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500., Order No. 1232-5308. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,  
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: November 9, 2004

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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Docket No. 1232-5308  
Serial No. 10/786,872

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  - ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(2), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; or
  - ☒ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits; or
  - ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(4), before the mailing date of a first office action after the filing of an RCE under §1.114.
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<b>FORM PTO-1449</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b>	Attorney Docket: 1232-5308	Serial No.: 10/786,872
	Applicant: MAEDA et al.	
	Filing Date February 24, 2004	Group Art Unit: 2636

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Item	Patent or Patent Publication Number	Publication Date	Name	Class	Sub-Class	Filing Date

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Item	Patent Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub-Class	Translation
	A	2002-163301 A	06/07/2002	JP (w/ English Abstract)			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
	B	2001-134729 A	05/18/2001	JP (w/ English Abstract)			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
	C	2001-39533 A	02/13/2001	JP (w/ English Abstract)			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
	D	2000-113077 A	04/21/2000	JP (w/ English Abstract)			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
	E	10-49756	02/20/1998	JP (w/ English Abstract)			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Examiner Initial	Item	OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Papers,

Examiner	Date Considered
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.	